



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

### **Attendees**

Commissioners: Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Susan Ryan-Vollmar (Co-Chair), Kari Sasportas, Andy Robinson, Helene Newberg

Liaisons: Julia Starkey, Marci Shapiro-Ide (Council on Aging), Christina Coleman (DEI), Julie Flaherty,

Guests: Charlotte Pierce, Laura Gitelson, John Dimo, Jennifer Susse

### **Minutes**

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines
2. Welcome and introductions (include your pronouns if you want to)
3. Reminder of revised meeting format
4. Approve minutes SRV Moved, Kari 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.
5. Membership/Recruitment – Laura Gitelson, candidate for Commissioner has been recommended to Select Board for Approval. Parent of first grader and kindergartener at Pierce. Possible rep from School Committee.

## 6. Working Group Updates and Membership

### a. Community Engagement Upcoming Events

- i. Autism Acceptance Month – Intersection of Neurodiversity and LGBTQIA+, 4/12/22. Over 50 registered. Recording link was sent out.
- ii. Arlington Pride 2022 Rainbow Commission 2017-2022 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary!
  1. Pride Gathering/Celebration – afternoon Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm
  2. CoA will cover rental expense.
  3. Engaging with Town business – Chamber of Commerce outreach asking them what they are doing for Pride so we can highlight their activities.
  4. Outreach to volunteer to help with chalkwalk painting and Pride day activities.

### b. Communications – DEI statement on Ukraine with positive feedback. Boston Spirit will have a blurb about Arlington Pride Activities. 5 Year anniversary – possibly do write up about what we've accomplished.

### c. APS/Youth Engagement – Town Hall event for APS on March 29 with 80 people, [article in Yourarlington](#), newsletter sent out.

### d. Town Systems & Policies

- i. Jennifer Susse – Remote participation update. Vice Chair of Remote Participation Committee. Surveyed Arlington committees and community members on the topic and will make recommendations to Town Meeting and developing recommendations for hybrid models. Looking at systems that can support the model to have conference room coverage for Select Board chambers, which could be shared with other town groups. Possibly have a warrant article or other form of recommendation, depending on outcome of surveys. Proposed pilot recommendation is being finalized and Jennifer can send next week. Only state of emergency has allowed us to circumvent the rule of being in person. Jennifer Susse also shared that in the feedback collected about meetings, her committee did hear from at least one resident who was not comfortable with Rainbow Commission policy of asking members of the public to introduce themselves and share why they were attending the meeting.
- ii. Domestic Partnership Warrant Article – Went in front of Finance Committee and Select Board. Answered questions, such as requiring extension of insurance.
- iii. Police Review Committee Study recommendations. Susan moved to endorse the recommendation – unanimous vote. Committee is now complete as of the end of town meeting.

### e. Budget – currently \$2225, will spend most on Pride

## 7. Liaison Updates

- a. APS – N/A
  - b. Council on Aging – Lexington co-sponsored event with singing and makeup giveaways. Doing Community Center Stage for Porchfest at 20 Academy St. Reached out to Katy on Prom. Community Center grand re-opening scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup>. Question on signage and recommendations on what's most appropriate.
  - c. Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – Stand against Racism workshops, happening weekly for any Town Employee. Interviews for Community Equity consultants. Making selection soon. New additions for Community Outreach Coordinator and Disability Coordinator closed apps and will be doing interviews.
  - d. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson. N/A
  - e. Library – April 27<sup>th</sup> – Reel Queer movie showing Debs. May QBG – One Last Stop, lesbian time travel. Genderqueer – graphic novel being targeted for bans in many places. Will feature for QBG in July. Pride Prom - kkania@minlib.net is the contact for pride prom that reached out to Belmont Library asking for help. Rainbow Committee to connect with her directly re: our participation.
  - f. Police Department – Recovery coach started a few weeks ago. Arlington resident signed on as consultant. Planning some group events and training. Notified first round of officers to start recertification. On Apr 23, Knights of Columbus and Autism Event to meet officers, including bicycle officers. Set up at the request of some community members. Kari raised the importance of including neurodivergent people in the planning and ensuring their voices are heard, and not just family members speaking on their behalf.
  - g. Select Board – Want to get banners, and crosswalk to meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Materials need to be in by the 20<sup>th</sup>. We can target May 2<sup>nd</sup> or later for the proclamation. Needed 2-3 weeks in advance, so could be later in May too.
8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary. N/A.
9. Close and Next Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday/month): Thursday May 19, 2022. Susan moves to adjourn, Andy 2<sup>nd</sup>s.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, [jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.